



ASBA Small Business Conference

Remarks by Governor Jan Brewer

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Fairmont Scottsdale Princess Resort

Thank you, Kristen.

And a special thanks to everyone here today representing small businesses throughout the state.

Arizona's economic recovery these past few years would not have been possible without your innovation and dedication to job creation.

In fact, business leaders like you have helped Arizona become the Number One state in the entire nation for expected job growth, according to Forbes Magazine.

And with 97 percent of the businesses in our state categorized as small businesses, I recognize that the people in this room are the real drivers of our economy.

Indeed, no one has a greater ability to spur Arizona's economic recovery forward more than small business owners.

Many of you know, I was raised early in life to appreciate the value of small business.

My first job was in the dress shop my mother opened after my father passed away. I was 11 years old, and I worked there until I was 20.

I witnessed first-hand what it took to keep a business going – and I learned quickly the extreme challenges that government can create when it adds burdensome regulations or raises taxes to pay for government spending.

These life lessons have stayed with me throughout my time in public service.

So it may come as no surprise that -- as governor -- it's been my top priority to make Arizona the most business-friendly state in the nation.

I know that a flourishing economy and successful business climate relies on low and fair taxes, lean regulations, a ready workforce and a government that gets out of the way and lets the free enterprise system do what it does best: create jobs!

And that's the model for economic growth we in Arizona have worked hard to establish these past five years.

Today, Arizona has been rewarded for those reforms and strong policies with economic stability – AND with national recognition as one of the BEST states for business.

Another reason for our success has been the Arizona Commerce Authority. The ACA has a host of resources to help small businesses and entrepreneurs across our state grow and become more profitable operations.

To everyone here today, thank you for your constant support in forwarding a pro-business agenda and helping entrepreneurs succeed.

The ASBA's competence is one of the reasons it will be hosting the National Small Business Association Small Business Congress in Phoenix next February, which will attract hundreds of small businesses to Arizona from around the country.

Business leaders like you are what make our economy and our country run, and I truly appreciate your efforts.

I have no doubt that with the continued support and assistance of the business community, together we will find greater success furthering the Arizona Comeback.

In conclusion, I am proud to have proclaimed May as Small Business Month in Arizona.

It is my honor to present that proclamation to your CEO, Rick Murray ... who, by the way, was a tireless champion of my successful sales tax reforms ... Thank you, Rick!

Once again, I wish you all a successful and productive conference.

Thank you.